GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:393
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
STREAMLINING LONG DISTANCE CALL NETWORK
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has failed to get security approval on surveillance equipment used in international long distance call network as reported in The Hindi daily Punjab Kesari dated July 8, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to implement any scheme to streamline long distance call network at international level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) The security agencies inspected the surveillance equipment of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and indicated certain performance deficiencies in the equipment such as distortion of speech, capability of intercepting Short Message Service (SMS), Multi Media Messaging Service (MMS), internet and data transaction. Some of the performance deficiencies were corrected by BSNL and further inspection was carried out by security agencies on 18.07.2006. The facilities of interception of SMS are proposed to be commissioned within three months.

(c) The Government announced measures to streamline International Long Distance Call Network in November, 2005.

(d) The measures announced include reduction in Entry Fee from Rs.25 crores to Rs.2.5 crores, reduction in Licence Fee from 15% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) to 6% of AGR, permission to access subscribers for providing international leased circuits and to provide Virtual Private Nework.